1st March 1927]

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I believe an excavator has been ordered for."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I also ask whether for the purpose of digging foundations or for removing stones machinery has been ordered, i.e., whether the machinery ordered for will not carry stones, etc., from one part of the dam to the other ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" No, Sir. Not that I am aware of."

Appointment of a committee to investigate the Pykara scheme.

*112 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the committee appointed to investigate the Pykara scheme have submitted their report and if so, to what effect ;

(b) whether the Government have any objection to lay the report on the table ;

(c) whether a new committee has been appointed and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Government Order appointing the new committee ; and

(d) whether any orders have been placed in connexion with the scheme and what sums have been already spent on the scheme with the chief items of expenditure ?

A.—(a) & (b) Messrs. Merz and McLellan, Consulting Engineers to the Railway Board, have examined and reported on the scheme. The report being confidential cannot be placed on the table of the House.

(c) The Government have appointed a small committee under the Director of Industries to investigate the demand for electric power and the price at which it will be taken.

The committee is composed as follows :—

(1) The Director of Industries, President, *Ex-officio.*
(2) Mr. E. J. B. Greenwood, Electrical Inspector to Government.
(3) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur S. K. Sundaracharlu, Deputy Collector.

The Government see no object in placing the Government Order on the table of the House.

(d) No orders have been placed in connexion with the scheme nor has any expenditure been incurred with the exception of that on the investigation of the scheme.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" As regards the answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I not ask the hon. the Law Member if he cannot at least give us some idea of the confidential report or give some extracts from that report omitting if he likes the confidential portion, because it may become too late, I am afraid, so far as this Pykara scheme is concerned, for us to scrutinize the matter."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The hon. Member will see exactly the reason for keeping the report confidential at the present moment. Messrs. Merz and McLellan are Consulting Engineers to the

Railway Board. It is with reference to the contemplated co-operation between the Railway Board and the Government that the Railway Board and the Government of Madras have arrived at the conclusion that the Consulting Engineers to the Railway Board should be asked to report. Those Engineers have reported and sent the report to the Railway Board. When the Railway Board and this Government come to an understanding on this matter and tentative conclusions are reached, the report, I have no doubt, will be made public excluding certain portions which relate to particular firms or other confidential matter. Before this House is asked to vote money on the initiation of the Pykara project, this report will be available to the House."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" May I know, Sir, whether these Consulting Engineers were paid any remuneration for their report ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Not yet, Sir. They will be, of course."

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" May I know, Sir, whether Mr. Sundaracharlu mentioned in answer to clause (c) has submitted any report on the particular deputation in which he himself was engaged ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Yes, Sir. I am now dealing with that report."

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the new committee appointed is due to the confidential nature of the report made by the Consulting Engineers ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No, Sir. I may be in a position to say that provisionally or tentatively the railway have agreed to take 50 per cent of the power started in Pykara. With reference to the other portion, we wanted to know what the power demand was, and somebody had to go round and collect data for the purpose, and that is the reason for the appointment of that committee."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" May I ask whether in this investigation that is going to be made the municipalities in the west coast also will be consulted ? Because I find that the investigation so far is confined to the east coast and the south of the Presidency, I wish to know whether they will investigate in the west coast where also there is great demand for power."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The question whether Malabar should be included or comprised in the Pykara scheme is under consideration."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" I want to know whether South Kanara will have the benefit of the scheme. That is why I said ' west coast '. "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I am afraid at the present moment it is impossible to say. South Kanara, in the first place, is too far away. I am speaking provisionally to make an economic use of this power."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" In answer to clause (c), I find ' The Government see no object in placing the Government Order on the table of the House.' May I request the hon. the Law Member to

1st March 1927]

publish it, so that people interested in the scheme may also give their views and lay them before the Government before the enquiry is completed by the said committee? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I think the idea of it was only for the purpose of collating the power demand. If the hon. Members want it, I have no objection to place the Government Order on the table of the House, and if any of the hon. Members are willing to assist the Government by giving their views as to the power demand, we shall be only too grateful."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say whether the special officer deputed for this work had finished his work before he was appointed for investigating the conditions of cottage industry in the Presidency? " 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" As I said in answer to a question that emanated from the hon. Member for Malabar, I am dealing with the report in consultation with my hon. Colleagues, His Excellency and other Members of the Government, and final orders will be issued a little later. It is impossible now to state whether the work so far done is final or not."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" Was the special officer transferred before his work was actually completed? You will have seen it in the local papers . . ."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If Government come to the conclusion that there will be more work for this committee, he will be asked to do it."

Police

Punitive police in Gooty and Tadpatri taluks.

*113 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any longer any necessity to continue the punitive police stationed at Peddavaduvur and other villages in Gooty and Tadpatri taluks of Anantapur district?

A.—The continuance of the additional police will come up for the consideration of Government in April next when a report from the District Magistrate is due.

Railways

Proposed construction of a railway line in Salem district.

*114 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to have a railway line in the Salem district in connexion with the Mettur scheme, and if so, to what length and at what cost?

A.—In October last the Railway Board sanctioned a detailed survey of a line of railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge from Salem to Mettur dam via Mecheri, a distance of 26 miles. The cost of the project cannot be known until the survey is completed.